

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 4094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING A RECENT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH TIBOR PETHO, MANAGING EDITOR OF MAGYAR NEMZET AND A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DCM DISCUSSED RECENT VISIT TO HUNGARY (DEC 8-11) OF ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU. DCM ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT REFERENCE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO "PROBLEMS" IN CULTURAL SPHERE INDICATES HUNGARIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH BUCHAREST'S EFFORTS TO "ROMANIZE" HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN TRANSYLVANIA AND BANAT.

2. PETHO SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS A FAIR STATEMENT AND THEN WENT ON TO RELATE THAT WHEN ROMANIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE POPESCU HAD VISITED BUDPEST NOT TOO LONG AGO. HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO HIM THAT THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN HIS SUGGESTION RE A CEAUDESCU-KADAR MEETING UNTIL CERTAIN CONCRETE STEPS

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HAD BEEN TAKEN TO COPE WITH HUNGARIAN COMPLAINTS RE

CULTURAL LIFE OF HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA.

3. POPESCU LISTENED TO THE HUNGARIAN COMPLAINTS, PETHO SAID, AND PROMISED TO RETURN TO BUCHAREST TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE ABOUT REMOVING THESE BARS TO CLOSER ROMANIAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. VERY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THEN, HE SAID. HUNGARY WISHES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND TO CONTINUE COOPERATION IN AS MANY WAYS AS POSSIBLE ON COMMON POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, PETHO SAID, AS LONG AS THERE IS NO IMPROVEMENT IN ROMANIA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ITS HUNGARIAN MINORITY, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A CERTAIN CHILLINESS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

4. AT ONE POINT PETHO SAID THAT "WE WANT TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH OUR HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPER IN ROMANIA". DCM TOOK THAT TO MEAN THAT GOH IS DISSATISFIED WITH CAPTIVE HUNGARIAN-LANGUAGE PRESS PUBLISHED IN ROMANIA AND WISHES TO HAVE ITS OWN PRESS DISTRIBUTED AMONG HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN THAT COUNTRY.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO THE CONVESATION WITH PETHO WE LEARNED FROM ANOTHER USUALLY WELL-INFORMED HUNGARIAN THAT IN THE VERSION OF THE COMMUNIQUE PRINTED IN ROMANIA, IN PARAGRAPH SIX OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHERE REFERENCE IS MADE TO AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, THE WORD "PROBLEMS" WAS DELETED AND REPLACED WITH "TASKS." SOURCE BELIEVES THIS UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE ROMANIANS WAS DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT IN ROMANIA THERE ARE NO DIFFICULTIES WITH HUNGARIAN MINORITY.  
MCAULIFFE

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